

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 984  
By Graves

A RESOLUTION to honor and congratulate Willie Ruth Borders  
upon being chosen as the 2004 Westmoreland  
Citizen of the Year.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should salute those citizens who through their extraordinary efforts have distinguished themselves as community leaders of whom we can all be proud; and

WHEREAS, one such noteworthy person is Willie Ruth Borders, who was chosen as the Westmoreland Citizen of the Year for 2004; and

WHEREAS, born in Westmoreland, Mrs. Borders has been an integral part of the Westmoreland Public Library for more than fifteen years; and

WHEREAS, her dedication to this public institution is remarkable; she has served with distinction as the Director of the Library since its founding in 1987; and

WHEREAS, she began her career at the Westmoreland Public Library when she was asked to work one day a week in the temporary library, which was housed in the VFW building; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Borders had been working at the Gary Shirt Factory in Gallatin, Tennessee, but she stopped working to stay home with her children; the job opportunity at the library presented the perfect opportunity for her to do both of the things she loved most: work with children in the community and be a mother to her own children; and

WHEREAS, when the new library opened in 1991 in a free-standing building of its own, Mrs. Borders continued her devoted service to the growing and thriving Westmoreland Public Library; and

WHEREAS, this institution now houses more than 11,000 books with circulation numbers that top 21,000; there are currently more than 3,000 library cardholders; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Borders oversees the operations of the library, and through her exemplary guidance and leadership, the library has become a cornerstone of the Westmoreland community; and

WHEREAS, during the summer months, the library hosts a successful reading program for children; Mrs. Borders also schedules other worthy programs, including workshops, storytelling, magic shows, tea parties, and computer classes; and

WHEREAS, Willie Ruth Borders serves as Secretary of the Friends of the Library Board, an organization that devotes time and energy to raising funds for new acquisitions and operating expenses for the Westmoreland Library; the Friends of the Library's latest endeavor is aimed at adding a new children's room; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Borders is also an active member in community and church affairs; she is a devout member of Roberts Tabernacle Church of God in Westmoreland; and

WHEREAS, throughout her illustrious tenure as Librarian, Mrs. Borders has enjoyed the love and companionship of her husband, William "Carol" Borders, and her children, Jackie McCormick and Chad Borders; she also is a devoted and loving grandmother of five; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Borders epitomizes the spirit and commitment that are characteristic of a true Tennessean; and

WHEREAS, this General Assembly finds it appropriate to pause in its deliberations to acknowledge and applaud Willie Ruth Borders for her dedication to the State of Tennessee and its citizens; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED THIRD GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we hereby honor and commend Willie Ruth Borders for her meritorious service to the Westmoreland Public Library and the State of Tennessee, offer our congratulations upon her selection as 2004 Westmoreland Citizen of the Year, and extend to her our best wishes for every future success.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.